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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/689,500	10/11/2000	Charles Graham	004737.P001	6211

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EXAMINER

TRAN, PHILIP B

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2155

DATE MAILED: 12/19/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.
09/689,500

Applicant(s)
Graham et al

Examiner
Philip B. Tran

Art Unit
2155



-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE three MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Feb 16, 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-34 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8, 13-27, and 32-34 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 9-12 and 28-31 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). 4 and 5 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371© of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) do not apply to the examination of this application as the application being examined was not (1) filed on or after November 29, 2000, or (2) voluntarily published under 35 U.S.C. 122(b). Therefore, this application is examined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

2. Claims 1-5, 7, 14, 22-27 and 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C 102(e) as being anticipated by Choung et al (Hereafter, Choung), U.S. Pat. No. 6,487,195.

Regarding claim 1, Choung teaches a method for exchanging information over a communications network, the method comprising:

connecting at least two clients to a proxy over the communications network (i.e., group user terminals 102 connected to website server 222 over the network 106) [see Figs. 1&2]; and

activating a shared session between the at least two clients and enabling co-navigation of at least one web document with dynamic content by the at least two clients during the shared session (i.e., creating shared session and providing collaborative web page navigation for a group of user terminals) [see Abstract and Col. 3, Lines 4-24].

Regarding claim 2, Choung further teaches the method of claim 1 wherein the at least two clients include at least one customer (i.e., user) and at least one company representative (i.e., administrative personnel) [see Col. 8, Line 58 – Col. 9, Line 13]

Regarding claim 3, Choung further teaches the method of claim 1 wherein connecting the at least two clients to the proxy includes receiving a message from any of the at least two clients, the message indicating a willingness to begin the shared session (i.e., creating join session among at least two user terminals) [see Col. 6, Line 48 – Col. 7, Line 7].

Regarding claim 4, Choung further teaches the method of claim 1 wherein activating the shared session between the at least two clients further includes collecting client state information and synchronizing browsers of the at least two clients using the client state information (i.e., collecting information from web browser and synchronizing browsers) [see Col. 3, Line 40 – Col. 4, Line 16].

Regarding claim 5, Choung further teaches the method of claim 4 wherein the client state information includes a client cookie, an Internet address of a current web document displayed to a client, and relevant information from the current web document (i.e., collecting session definition and navigation tracking information) [see Col. 4, Lines 39-64 and Col. 8, Line 60 – Col. 9, Line 11].

Regarding claim 7, Choung further teaches the method of claim 1 wherein enabling the at least two clients to co-navigate includes:

presenting a web document retrieved from a web site to the at least two clients (i.e., displaying web pages retrieved) [see Col. 3, Lines 48-57]; and

submitting responses received from any of the at least two clients to the web site (i.e., collecting information from clients and sending it to the web site server) [see Col. 3, Line 58 – Col. 4, Line 8]

Regarding claim 14, Choung further teaches the method of claim 1 further comprising: a first client specifying an object on a web document displayed to the first client during the shared session, and displaying the object on a web document displayed to a second client (i.e., displaying web pages on user terminals) [see Col. 5, Lines 5-12].

Claims 22-24 are rejected under the same rationale set forth above to claim 1.

Claim 25 is rejected under the same rationale set forth above to claim 2.

Regarding claim 26, Choung further teaches the system of claim 24 wherein each of the first client device and the second client device comprises an applet to establish connection with the co-navigation service (i.e., collaborative program), and a shared browser to present the at least one web document to a user (i.e., browser synchronizer) [see Figs. 2-3].

Regarding claim 27, Choung further teaches the system of claim 24 wherein the co-navigation service comprises a routing server to manage web requests, load balancing and routing (i.e., web site server), at least one application server to maintain a plurality of shared sessions (i.e., collaborative controller), and a database server to authenticate participants of the plurality of shared sessions and store information related to each of the plurality of shared sessions (i.e., collaborative database) [see Figs. 2-3].

Claim 34 is rejected under the same rationale set forth above to claim 1.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CAR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103© and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

4. Claims 6, 8, 13, 15-21 and 32-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Choung et al (Hereafter, Choung), U.S. Pat. No. 6,487,195 in view of Anupam et al (Hereafter, Anupam), U.S. Pat. No. 6,360,250.

Regarding claim 6, Choung does not explicitly teach the method of claim 1 wherein any of the at least two clients is behind a firewall. However, the use of firewall related with the Internet network as disclosed by Choung is old and well-known in the art. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to implement clients behind a firewall because it would enhance the system security for protecting data transmission from being accessed by unauthorized users.

Regarding claim 8, Choung does not explicitly teach the method of claim 7 wherein presenting the web document further includes retrieving the web document from the web site, modifying the web document, and delivering the modified web document to the at least two clients. However, the process of checking and modifying the web document before transmitting it to clients is well-known in the art as disclosed by Anupam [see Col. 5, Lines 37-51]. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to change the web document and transmit changes to other collaborators in a session because it would enable the synchronization of most updated web document while the collaborators interactively communicate with each others in real-time.

Regarding claim 13, Choung does not explicitly teach the method of claim 1 wherein co-navigating includes jointly completing a web form by the at least two clients. However, the concept of jointly completing a web form is old and well-known in the art as disclosed by Anupam [see Fig. 1 and Col. 5, Lines 47-51]. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to jointly complete a web form because it would enhance the system by allowing collaborators to interactively communicate with each others in real-time to consummate a sale or resolve a bill problem online.

Regarding claims 15-18 and 20, Choung does not explicitly teach several features such as scrolling the web document displayed to the second client to a portion of the web document that includes the object, selectively restricting web features from any of the at least two clients during the shared session, selectively enabling web features from any of the at least two clients during the shared session, selectively blocking personal information of a first client from a second client during the shared session, providing going back and forward functionality during the shared session. However, the use of these features of modifying and accessing web document is old and well-known in the art. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to implement these features of modifying and accessing web document in the Choung's system because it would enhance the system and allow a variety of manipulative functionalities in selectively modifying and accessing web document.

Claim 19 is rejected under the same rationale set forth above to claim 6.

Regarding claim 21, Choung does not explicitly teach the method of claim 1 wherein any of the at least two clients are connected to the proxy via a wireless carrier. However, the use of wireless network is old and well-known in the art. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made implement a wireless network because it would enhance the system by allowing multiple users communicate with each others from remote area wherein the wired network is not available.

Claim 32 is rejected under the same rationale set forth above to claim 19.

Claim 33 is rejected under the same rationale set forth above to claim 21.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 9-12 and 28-31 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Other References Cited

6. The following references cited by the examiner but not relied upon are considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

A) Choung et al, U.S. Pat. No. 6,295,550.

B) Anupam et al, U.S. Pat. No. 6,411,989.

C) Shelton et al, U.S. Pat. No. 5,951,643.

D) Craig, U.S. Pat. No. 6,108,687.


7. A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR RESPONSE TO THIS ACTION IS SET TO EXPIRE THREE MONTHS, OR THIRTY DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION. FAILURE TO RESPOND WITHIN THE PERIOD FOR RESPONSE WILL CAUSE THE APPLICATION TO BECOME ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). EXTENSIONS OF TIME MAY BE OBTAINED UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF 37 CAR 1.136(A).

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Philip Tran whose telephone number is (703) 308-8767. The Group fax phone number is (703) 746-7239.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ayaz R. Sheikh, can be reached on (703) 305-9648.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

PBT
Philip B. Tran
Art Unit 2155
Dec 11, 2002


AYAZ SHEIKH
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